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Hongkong Daily Press.

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"CROWN BRAND STONE GINGER BEER AND GIN."

WATKINS, LD., HONGKONG.

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INSURANCE AT MINIMUM COST.

TO buy at the top of the market is a thing for other people to do.

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CHARGES MODERATE.

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Admirably Situated. Sheltered from the North-East Monsoon and Open to the South-West Monsoon.

A COVERED GANGWAY LEADS FROM THE TRAMWAY TERMINUS INTO THE HOTEL.

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Ladies' Afternoon Tea-Rooms.

For Terms, &c., apply to the MANAGER.

HONGKONG, 31st October, 1902.

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HAS been re-opened under European management and most strict supervision.

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have been specially selected, and procured
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PALE DRY NUTTY 30.00 2.50
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GOOD \$16.50 1.40

FINE 27.00 2.25

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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Hongkong, 14th May, 1903.

We are all of us interested in learning
what medical science is able to teach us
that will satisfactorily explain the in-
fectivity of plague. In their report the
Indian Plague Commission say: "The
universal experience of plague in India
proves that houses into which the
infection of plague has been imported,
whether by men or rats, are infective,
this infectivity being so marked that
many officers who have had most ex-
perience of the disease, have come to the
conclusion that the principal source of
infection is, as would appear to hold true
in the case of yellow fever, and possibly
also of typhus, to be found in the houses
in which the infection of plague has been
introduced." Critics of the Report, how-
ever, have pointed out that this is only true
of dirty, dark, over-crowded and vermin-
infested houses; and as instancing the
contrary when the houses are clean, light
and airy, the experience of the majority of
the plague hospitals in India is quoted.
Here, they exclaim, infection is constantly
being imported into a house, but the
disease is only rarely communicated from
the sick to the healthy who work and live
in these hospitals, and that this is not
due to anti-septic precautions is said to be
obvious to anyone who has a knowledge
of disinfection and who has seen these
precautions carried out in a native hospital.
Certain experts in India further claim that
the bacteriological evidence is uniform in
maintaining that plague germs naturally
or artificially placed on soil, clothing or
grain, rapidly disappear, for at least cannot be
recovered from these substances even a few
days after infection. It has further been
proved that rats can live and thrive upon

grains grossly contaminated with virulent
cultures of plague germs. In short, as the
Plague Commission's Report shows, the
common mode of the entrance of the plague
bacillus into the human organism is through
the skin in the bubonic and septicemic
forms of plague.

Before the Commission a Dr. SIMOND
suggested that the flea was the medium of
infection. His arguments were (1) that
plague rats are eminently infective when
infested with fleas, and they cease to be in-
fective when they have been despoiled by
their parasites; (2) living plague bacilli are
found in association with fleas which are
taken from plague infected rats; (3) that
plague can pass from infected rats to other
animals which have not come directly into
contact with them or with their infected
excretions; and (4) fleas which infested
rats will transfer themselves as parasites to
men. The Plague Commission considered
that the arguments brought forward by Dr.
Simond were not conclusive; but that, of
course, is not the final word on the subject.

Now that it has been proved that the
Anopheles mosquito is a communicator of
malaria from man to man, and that yellow
fever is also spread in the same way by an
insect, a flip is given to investigations with
a view to discovering whether it is actually
a fact or not that the flea plays the part in
the spread of plague which the admitted-
ly inconclusive investigations made up
to the present seem to indicate. A
valuable contribution to knowledge on this
subject was made by Captain W. GLEN
LISTER, M.D., I.M.S., recently in a paper
which he read before the Bombay Medical
and Physical Society. He is evidently
persuaded that Dr. Simond's theory is a
sound one. He notes that phlyctenules
are most common on those parts of the
body which are most subject to attacks by
fleas, and he also suggests that the seasonal
prevalence of plague can be accounted for
by the prevalence of some intermediary host
of plague bacillus. He has been informed
by several people, chiefly natives, that the
plague season corresponds with the
maximum prevalence of fleas. This is
undoubtedly true of rat fleas, he says,
for they are most numerous at the rat
breeding season. He has consequently been
led to study the insect, and has so
far found on rats but one species, the Pulex
pallidus, which at first sight is very like
the human flea (Pulex irritans) but, under
the microscope, differences are revealed.
Captain Lister is prosecuting his studies
in conjunction with the great British
authorities on such subjects, the Hon.
CHARLES ROBINSON, but he expresses
the belief that the close resemblance between
the Pulex pallidus and the Pulex irritans,
and the absence of the Pulex irritans from
many European countries may account
for the frequent association together
of plague epidemics in rats and man
in India, South Africa and Australia
(he might have added China) and
the comparative rarity of this association
in European countries where Pulex
pallidus is not found. Yet, though there
are some facts which implicate the insect
in the spread of the plague, Captain Lister
was unable to supply absolute proof as the
result of investigations he had so far made.
Many experiments, however, must yet be
performed, he says, before any definite
statement can be made on the subject.

An outbreak of fire occurred about two
o'clock yesterday morning in a herb shop
situated on the ground floor at 11, Albert-
Street. It was fortunately slight and was ex-
tinguished before much damage resulted. The
place is uninsured.

Fourteen cases of plague were recorded on
yesterday's return. All were Chinese cases but
one, the exception being an Indian. One body
was found in a ditch near Un Chau village.
Another in a dinghy in Causeway Bay, and
a third near a latrine in Nullah Lane.

Owing to the increased plague mortality in
Calcutta, averaging 150 to 200 cases daily, the
Municipality have decided to retain for another
year the special plague establishment which
according to the orders of the Government of
India should be abolished in July next.

A special general meeting of shareholders and
subscribers has been summoned in connection
with the election of six lay representatives of the
St. John's Cathedral congregation to the
proposed new Colonial Church Council. The
meeting will be held in St. Paul's College to-
morrow at 5 p.m.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial
and Netherdale Hospitals begs to acknowledge
with thanks the following donations to the funds
of the Hospitals:—

L. Charles & Co. \$10
H. N. Cooper 10
E. W. Mitchell 10
W. S. Harrison 5
Lau Chu Pak 5

At Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Co.'s yard,
Kowloon, on Saturday next, at 3 p.m., a practical
demonstration of Dr. Goldschmidt's Thermit
process for the generation of intense heat
through the combustion of aluminium will be
given by Mr. Edm. Johansson, Des Vaux
Road, who intimates that a launch will be at
Blake Pier at 2.30 p.m. for the conveyance of
guests to Kowloon.

In the Dawson-Diggle billiard match last
month Diggle had a break of 527.

By decree of the Governor General of In-
China the price of the postage has been fixed
at 2fr. 15.

The strictest vigilance is being observed in
Manila to prevent the spread of cholera among
Government Officials.

The French companies have reduced their
freight on cotton yarn, to on the Indo-China
lines, making it the same as for cotton piece
goods.

The U.S. battleship Indiana has just scored
fourteen hits in sixteen shots at a range of five
miles with her 13-inch guns. This is claimed
to be a world's record.

Recently a Singapore detective went to
sleep in the witness-room at the Police Court
and, when he awoke, discovered some facetious
thief had purloined his shoes.

It has been settled that when Admiral Sir
Charles Hotham, the present Commander-in-
Chief at Portsmouth, hauls down his flag, he
will be succeeded by Admiral Sir John Fisher.

A Chinaman who was arrested by Sergeant
King of the Gambling Suppression Department
at Singapore for selling Macao Lottery tickets
at Chinatown Street was fined \$250 or in default
three months. The fine was not paid.

Le Courrier Saigonais states that the
Messageries Fluviales du Cochinchine have
under construction in French dockyards four
ships. Three of them will have a tonnage of
5,500 and will cost 3,670,000 francs each; the
fourth will be a ship of 6,300 tons, which will
cost 3,719,520 francs.

The yearly report on the trade of the Straits
Settlements for 1902 has been published. The
total value of imports stood at \$362,304,818
against \$329,520,259 in 1901. Singapore ac-
counted for \$280,516,664 against \$254,128,415 in
1901. The total exports came to \$311,034,935
against \$278,753,805 in 1901. Singapore rose
to \$234,254,584 against \$213,109,826.

The promoters of the Scottish National
Antarctic expedition are appealing for £10,000
to maintain the steamer Scotia in Antarctic
waters for another twelve months from March
1904. The Scotia sailed on November 8. On
January 25 the vessel left Port Stanley for the
Weddell Sea to proceed thence southward into
the unknown. As soon as the ice breaks up
she will return to the Falkland Islands.

Mr. W. A. Fitton, the well-known Manila
broker, who met with a painful accident a week
or so ago was still suffering severely at the
Civil Hospital when the last mail left. While
not regarded as dangerous his injuries were
very painful and he had been delirious a large
part of the time since his fall. A cablegram
has been sent to Mrs. Fitton, who is visiting in
Australia with her children, and it is believed
she will return to Manila immediately.

An extraordinary state of things was revealed
at the Board of Trade enquiry last month into
the standing of the steam trawler Vida off
Tambly. The stranding, said the president of
the court, was, in his opinion, due to drunken-
ness, for almost everyone seemed to have been
drunk except the captain. The captain himself
had contributed to it by leaving this mate in
charge when he was not in a fit state to dis-
charge his duties. The skipper was cautioned
to be more careful in the future, while the mate's
certificate was suspended for four months.

The giant dredger which has been com-
missioned by the Thames Conservancy to
deepen the river channel by four feet between
London Bridge and Millwall has thirty-one
riveted steel buckets, each of which holds a ton
and a half. Their contents are emptied down a
shaft into barges moored alongside. Four
barges, each capable of holding 80 tons, are
filled every day, and the material is carried out
to sea and thrown overboard near the Mouse
Lightship. It is calculated that the present
task of deepening the River from London Bridge
to Millwall will take another eighteen months.

George Rudoro, a German, was remanded
at the Police Court yesterday on a charge of
attempting to obtain money by false pretences.
He was formerly employed in the Café
Weissmann, but was discharged, and it is
alleged that he then went to the Rhenish
Mission and attempted to collect an account due
to his former master. As he produced no bill,
and could not name the exact amount of money
owing, the lady at the Mission to whom he
applied became suspicious and communicated
with the Café Weissmann, with the result that
Rudoro was arrested. He pleaded not guilty to
the charge, and stated that he merely meant to
collect the account and then inform his master
that he intended to keep the money in lieu of
the wages which he asserts the firm did not pay
him when they dispensed with his services.

With the rise in the value of "Mex",
says a Manila contemporary, we have seen
a practical illustration of a contingency
which we referred to some time ago in
regard to the adjustment of our currency
when the new money is put into circulation. It
has doubtless been noticed that while silver has
been enhanced in value, our storekeepers still
keep to the old prices in Mexican. Shoes which
were twelve pesos when Mex. was at 2.60, are
still twelve pesos with Mex. at 2.40. In other
words, there is a clear difference in value of 30
cents gold. On an article placed at 30 pesos,
there is a difference of about one dollar gold.
This difference, of course, goes from the pocket
of the consumer or the public, into the pocket
of the merchant. It is another case of the
trust and the strike—in the last analysis the
public is grieved.

Thirty-three per cent. of the immigrants
arriving in the United States are Italians and
27 per cent. Austro-Hungarians.

It is not generally known that George Robey
is an experienced football player. During last
month he played for Millwall against 3rd
Leamard and Reading.

It is understood, says the Straits Times, that
Mr. Malcolm Duncan contractor in Penang
and Perak, and brother of Mr. Chesney Duncan,
editor of the Straits Echo, has given up
Government work owing to the large increase
of mining business, and his projected departure
for Europe this month, on a holiday.

A return issued by the Indian Tea Associa-
tion shows that the exports of Indian tea from
the 1st April, 1902, to the 31st March, 1903, to
all countries were 173,983,444 lbs. against
173,736,083 lbs. in the previous year. The total
to the United Kingdom was 145,552,331 lbs.
against 122,658,286 lbs.; and to America
8,244,003 lbs. against 2,106,589 lbs.

In the Master Attendant's Court at Singapore
on the 6th inst. two Germans were sent to gaol
for 14 days each for stowing away on board the
s.s. Alberg. The vessel was bound for Manila,
and as the penalties for bringing destitute per-
sons to that port are very heavy the captain, on
discovering them when three hours out, put
back again and handed them over to the police.

Sir Marcus Samuel, the Lord Mayor of
London, is Chairman of the Company owning
the line of oil steamers called the Shell
Line. Why Shell, is often asked? It is a
romance that recalls the tradition of Sir Richard
Whittington. On a shell—or, more accurately,
on many shells—Sir Marcus floated to fortune.
He began life in the shell trade in a small way,
and by indomitable energy worked himself up
to the highest civic office in the land.

One of the last letters written by the late
General Sir Hector MacDonald was addressed
shortly before leaving Colombo to the Rev.
David Crichton Melvin, formerly chaplain of
the Gordon Highlanders. The following is a
somewhat pathetic extract—My life has been
a very uphill laborious one, and it has been
more by luck than guidance in many parts that
it has turned out as it has done. A generous
Government gave me a three months' holiday,
which is the only one I have had in my many
years' service. I have slept ten years under
cannas or in a tent. This letter is not for
publication during my life.

SMOKING CONCERT.

At the Warrent Officers' Club, Bla Buildings,
on Tuesday night, a smoking concert was held
in honour of departing and new members of the
institution—that is to say, those who are going
home on relief from the station and those who
arrived on the cruises Spartiate and Europa to
fill their places. Songs were sung and speeches
made, and altogether an exceedingly pleasant
evening was spent. During its course the
chairman, Mr. R. Kane, intimated that he had
pleasure in accepting from Mr. Hunt, R.E., on
behalf of the Club, an interesting and unique
gift in the shape of a photograph of Nelson's
old flagship Victory, taken Portsmouth Harbour
on Trafalgar Day and showing the Admiral's
historic signal flying. The frame of the
photograph, which is to be suitably inscribed,
is out taken from the Victory.

A FIGHT WITH THE MOROS.

Captain Peshing's column has encountered
desperate opposition in the Taraca country on
the east shore of Lake Lanao, Mindanao, and
was forced to assault a series of ten strong forts.
Eight of the strongholds were taken without
serious loss but it was necessary to assault the
ninth and invest the tenth. Before the final
rebuttal had surrendered, 115 Moros had been
killed and thirteen wounded. The American
loss was two killed and seven wounded.

REPECTION OF FOCHOW TEA BY
THE U.S. TEA BOARD.

The following is from the American Grocer:—
The rejections recently made of Fochow
Nolong teas by the Tea Board, which brought
forth bitter complaints from merchants, here, as
stated in these columns has finally come to a
close. Importers are vigorously protesting
against the exclusion of tea made. They are
now appealing, having made applications to the
Secretary of the Treasury requesting that the
department, in conformity with the provisions
of the Act of March 2nd, 1897, issue regulations
relative to the re-examination of teas before the
Board of United State General Appraisers.

NEW CREMATION ACT IN ENGLAND.

The new Cremation Act came into force in
England on April 1st. It is frankly styled
"An Act for the regulation of the burning of
human remains, and to enable burial authorities
to establish crematoria."

The point raised by Mr. Justice Grantham
in sentencing Kosowski to death, to the effect
that had the bodies of his victims been cremated
instead of buried the crime could not have been
traced, is provided for in the new Act. It im-
poses a penalty of £50 for contravention of the
new regulations, and provides that every person
making a false declaration in order to get a
body cremated shall be liable to two years' hard
labour. Should it be shown that the efforts to
get a body cremated were made with a view to
concealing any offence the person concerned
will be liable to five years' penal servitude.

"The prevalent idea that cremation is only
attainable by the rich is erroneous," said an
official of the London Cremation Society yester-
day. "The charge at Woking, including a
plain mask for the ashes, is five pounds."—
Daily Mail.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS SERVICE.

THE NEAR EAST.

LONDON, 11th May.

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria has made a
statement in Paris disclaiming responsibility
for the Macedonian agitation and the Salonika
outrages. He declared that the Bulgarians
would not risk sharing the fate of the Greeks
at Thessaly in the Tarco-Greek war.

LATIN.

There is a general consensus of opinion that
the chief danger in the Balkans has arisen from
the growing exasperation of Bulgaria and
Turkey against each other.

ATTEMPTED BOMB OUTRAGE ON
AN AMERICAN LINER.

LONDON, 11th May.

Just before the Commander of the Umbria
left New York, the police seized a box contain-
ing 100 lbs. of dynamite with complicated
machinery which was working. The box was
delivered by Italians and it is supposed to be a
Mafia plot to destroy the English liner.

RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

LONDON, 11th May.

Lord Cranborne said that Russia in replying
to the friendly communications of the American
and British Governments, during the last few
days, had intimated that she adheres to her
engagements regarding the evacuation of
Manchuria although the evacuation is tempo-
rarily delayed; that as no measures for excluding
foreign Consuls or obstructing commerce or the
use of ports is intended there is no reason for
concerted action by Great Britain, the United
States and Japan.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CLOSING OF CHINESE
THEATRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th May.

Sir,—“Common Sense” has, I am afraid,
condensed all he has of that useful quality into
his *non-de-plume*.

The question is a sanitary one, pure and
simple, and not a racial one. Should the
necessity arise, doubtless the City Hall would
be closed *pro bono publico*.
The necessity has arisen in the case of the
Chinese theatres, and all sane people will agree
that they ought to be temporarily closed to
protect the Chinese from themselves and not
as “Common Sense” foolishly implies, to
safeguard the occasional European who unwisely
leaves his “large and airy quarters at the
Pak” to visit these plague traps.

“Common Sense” doubts the idea as “very
foolish” but that, I think, need disturb no
one as long as it has the favour, approval, and
votes of the majority of the Sanitary Board
headed by its very able President.

Perhaps Chinese theatres are, figuratively
speaking, veritable Gardens of (Chinese) Eden
—personally, I think they more resemble
Pandemonium—when compared with the Chi-
nese tenements, but it is a poor argument to
say that because the latter are filthy and
pestiferous, therefore their occupants should
be encouraged to herd together in their un-
sanitary thousands for amusement or any other
purpose.

Better rather to compel them to clean their
houses in their leisure hours and to endeavor to
do the impossible by making the Asiatic
lock on sanitation from some more enlightened
position than the “Asiatic standpoint.”
“Common Sense” gracefully closed with a
charming little quotation. I offer him one in
return. Remember “One rotten fish corrupts
the whole basket.”—Yours, etc.,

SCALLYWAG.

AN ARMS CASE.

At Singapore on the 6th inst. the master of a
local coasting vessel appeared before Mr. Wilson,
in answer to a summons issued at the instance
of the Chief Police Officer, to explain why he
could not account for certain firearms which he
had obtained licences to possess.

Insp. Knox, Arms and Ammunition Depart-
ment, said that on the 7th ult. he had been sent
on board to see the permits held by defendant
to possess a double-barrelled shot gun, a single-
barrelled muzzle-loading gun, a muzzle-loading
rifle, and Mauser pistols. The defendant could
not produce them. No action was taken then.
Later, an application from the defendant for a
permit for possession of more arms caused witness
to call the attention of the Chief Police Officer to
the matter. The present action was the result.
The master admitted purchasing the firearms
for friends at Kelantan, and denied that he ever
intended that they were for use on the ship.
If he had infringed the provisions of the law, it
was in ignorance. Mr. Wilson told the defend-
ant he had no right to buy and sell arms
without a permit, and that the penalty was a
fine of \$200; he would, however, deal leniently
with this case and impose a fine of \$20 and
costs.

“COFFIN-BREAKERS.”

This is the peculiar title applied by the
Chinese to a gang of thieves who operate on
the passenger boats travelling between Hong-
kong and Canton. Just how the term came to
be invented it is difficult to conceive, but
there is doubtless something in the mode
of operation of the thieves that has suggested it
to those upon whom they prey. They have
different ways of pursuing their unlawful cal-
ling, and these are adopted as circumstances
necessitate. Before a steamer sails, members
of the gang have taken an inventory of
the passengers' luggage, and when any box
strikes them as likely to contain something
valuable, the word is passed along and
another box identically similar is substituted.
If the coup has not been made before the boat
casts off from the wharf, one of the gang makes
the trip as a passenger, and when the owner of
the coveted box arrives at his destination he is
generally chagrined to find that the one he has
taken away with him contains nothing but
rubbish. The stranger who travelled with him
and made himself so agreeable on the
passage might have effected the change, he
thinks, but then he left at the first opportunity
and it would be a hopeless task now to try to
find him amongst the multitude around, many
of whom are probably confederates. So the vic-
timised owner yields to the inevitable, and sadly
disappointed, poorer in material wealth but richer in
the knowledge that experience has taught him.

That is one way of operating, but some-
times, as has been said, circumstances make it
impossible to adopt this particular course.
Even then the thief is not defeated, as the
following case, which occurred about a week
ago, will show. Travelling from Canton, a
Chinaman was approached by another who
seemed disposed to be friendly. The first man
felt lonely, and did not object to having the
trip brightened by the companionship of such an
agreeable individual as the stranger appeared to
be. So they chatted together, drank each other's
health in “samsun,” and smoked opium with
the greater gusto that the enjoyment was in-
creased by solitariness. The thief, however,
over-reached himself, and his overbearing effu-
sance aroused suspicion in the breast of the
other. The latter watched him man narrowly
and just before entering Hongkong harbor,
when supposed to be sound asleep, he observed
his friend of the voyage tampering with his
box. The alarm was given at once, and in-
vestigation showed that a hole had been cut in
the box at one end through which the thief
was dragging everything he could lay his
hands to. The culprit was arrested, not, how-
ever, before he had succeeded in throwing a
large clasp-knife into the water. No conviction
followed, for the simple reason that the owner
of the box and the colored man who arrested
the prisoner on the boat told their respective
stories with such an evident desire to outshin-
each other in claiming all the glory of the cap-
ture that their evidence clashed in every
essential particular, and the defendant, who
must have thought himself a lucky man, was
discharged.

A rather way of tricking passengers out
of their belongings is for one member of the
gang to attract the intended victim's attention
whilst another appropriates whatever they have
set their desires on and makes off. This
ruse was tried the other morning. A
Chinaman going up to Canton had with
him a bag containing about \$300 in money
and several articles of clothing. As some time
had to elapse before the steamer started, he
spread out a mat and lay down on it, using the
bag as a pillow. Possibly his jealous regard
for his treasure attracted the attention of the
two men who soon afterwards accosted him, or
again they may have been aware of what his
bag contained. At any rate, one addressed the
recumbent native with the words, uttered, of
course, in Chinese:—“Friend, there is some dirt
on your coat; let me wipe it off.” The man
spoken to became suspicious immediately, and
instead of raising himself completely to examine
his dress, thus leaving the bag unguarded, he
merely deviated his head and glanced at the place
indicated by the man standing by his side.
That, however, was quite enough for the second
hawk, who seized the bag and took to his heels.
Determined not to lose both, the Chinaman
caught the other man and held on to him till
he had raised lusty shouts of “Steal things,”
which is apparently the Chinese equivalent of
“Stop thief.” A constable saw the act and heard
the man's cries, and he pursued and caught the
decamping thief, who, with his accomplice,
was conveyed to the lock-up to be dealt with
later by the magistrate. Such is the trade
of the “coffin-breakers,” whose systematic
methods enable them in the majority of
instances to follow it in absolute security.

THE SOMALILAND REVERSE.

NAMES OF OFFICERS KILLED.
Information now to hand respecting the
reverse in Somaliland last month when ten
officers and 180 men were killed out of a total
force of 280 shows that the attack, which took
place at Gumburri, was made at close quarters
by a great body of Mulla's followers. The
British force kept them back until their
ammunition was finished, then formed a square
and charged with the bayonet in the direction
of Colonel Cobbe's square, but were ultimately
annihilated with the exception of 37.

The following officers were killed, namely,
Lieut.-Colonel A. W. V. Plunkett, Captains J.
Johnston-Stewart, H. E. Oliver, H. B. de B.
Morris, McKinnon, Vasey, and Sims, and
Lieutenants J. A. Gwynn, E. W. Ball and C.
E. Chichester.

THE MAN

Some complete
official sources of
shipped from M.
Manila Times
from some of it.

Mr. Jones of
“I do not care
the hump business
do so in order
subject of the at-
trade is very ex-
its different ph-
one to another
explain the whole.

“In regard
exporters with
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should be done
but, as far as I
yet acted upon
“Is it true,”
grades of hemp
States?”

“Now,” said
question would
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think anyone no
the terms.”

“Are the man
getting poor gra-
was asked.

“You may say
that if they are
It is the produce
“Do you believe
islands is in dan-
“Not a bit,”
The head of u-
said.

“There seem
opinion between
States and ex-
in the quality of
“The quality
the reporter.

“Well,” was
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buying it. It
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the mistaken im-
the finer grades.

“The best he
shipped to the
to New York and
go to Europe.

“Shippers al-
able, for there
landing it.”

BREAKERS

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be friendly. The first
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as the stranger appeared
together, drank each
and smoked opium
that the enjoyment was
ness. The thief, how
it, and his accomplice
in the breast of the
watched his man narrowly
entering Hongkong harbor,
be sound sleep, he observed
voyage tampering with
as given it once, and
a hole had been cut
through which the
everything he could lay
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into the water. No
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in evident desire to
all the story of the
evidence dashed in
every, and the defend
himself a lucky man,

THE MANILA HEMP TRADE.

Some complaint having been made through official sources of the quality of hems recently shipped from Manila to the United States, the Manila Trade has been seeking information from some of the leading export houses.

Mr. Jones of Smith, Ball and Co. said: "I do not care to enter into a discussion of the hemp business and it would be necessary to do so in order to speak intelligently on the subject of the alleged complaints. The hemp trade is a very complicated and difficult one and its different phases are so intimately related one to another, that it would be necessary to explain the whole thing."

"In regard to the relations of the hemp exporters with the Commission I may say that some months ago the latter, by request, submitted recommendations as to what in their opinion should be done for the good of the industry; but, as far as I know, the Commission has not yet acted upon the matter."

"Is it true," he was asked, "that inferior grades of hemp have been shipped to the United States?"

"Now," said Mr. Jones, "to answer that question would mean a long explanation of what is really meant by 'inferior grades.' I do not think anyone not in the business understands the term."

"Are the manufacturers of the United States getting poor grades at present, as is alleged?" was asked.

"You may depend upon it," said Mr. Jones, "that if they are the fault is not the shippers. It is the producer who is to blame."

"Do you believe that the hemp trade of the islands is in danger?"

"Not a bit," said Mr. Jones, emphatically.

The head of another large exporting concern said:

"There seems to be a wide difference of opinion between certain people in the United States and exporters here as to the deterioration in the quality of hemp shipped to that country."

"The quality has deteriorated, then?" asked the reporter.

"Well," was the answer, "the quality of hemp shipped at present is quite as good as was that shipped four years ago, and people are still buying it. It is not true that exporters are shipping poor hemp to the United States under the mistaken impression that it sells better than the finer grades."

"The best hemp produced in the islands is shipped to the United States, the bulk of it to New York and Boston. The inferior grades go to Europe."

"Shippers always buy the best hemp obtainable, for there is less risk and expense in handling it."

"Is it true," asked the reporter, "that there is more money to be made by exporters in dealing in inferior grades than in good grades?"

"It is not true," was the reply. "The native prefers to produce the cheaper grades, for he can get it out quickly and with little labour, while the production of good hemp requires time and care."

"The exporter, on the other hand, makes just as much profit on one grade as on the other. Exporters who have been in the hemp business for forty or fifty years are familiar with what is wanted in the different markets, and we certainly are not going to ship inferior and unsaleable hemp to America when we know that the demand there calls for the best."

"Some months ago Commission Worcester called a meeting of leading hemp dealers and got our opinions and suggestions as to hemp. I suppose the Commission is considering them."

"My own opinion is that much of the present agitation on the subject is due to the fact that about five months ago the Navy Department in Washington made tenders to the leading hemp dealers here offering to buy a large quantity of a certain grade at a fixed price. Hemp of the grade required was unobtainable here at that time and none of the firms could consider the offer. An American, however, who had never been known in the hemp business here, submitted samples of a lower grade and offered to fill the order. The Navy Department approved his samples and bought his hemp, which was quite as good as the samples shown, but was not the grade asked for at first, nor was it first-class hemp. I think that this incident has caused most of the complaints referred to by Colonel Edwards and that they probably originated in the Navy Yard."

DEATH BY PLAGUE ON THE "ALBION."

The British first-class cruiser *Albion* had to leave Yokohama unexpectedly for Weihaiwei. She went there to land Rear-Admiral Greenleaf for the purpose of undergoing a course of treatment at the naval hospital, but a Chinese servant on board died of plague, and it was therefore impossible for any one, even the admiral, to land without first going through some days' quarantine. Under the circumstances it was considered the best plan to leave at once for Weihaiwei. —Nagasaki Press.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The C.P.R. steamer *Athenian* arrived at Nagasaki at 7 a.m. on the 13th inst., and left again at 2 p.m. same day for Shanghai, where she is due to arrive at 3 a.m. to-morrow.

The O.S.S. steamer *Agamemnon* left Shanghai yesterday morning, and is due here to-morrow.

The "Glen" line steamer *Glenloch* left Singapore yesterday morning, and is due here on the 18th inst.

The C.C. steamer *Atholl* arrived at Nanaimo on the 12th inst., and was to sail for San Francisco on the 13th inst.

OUR PARIS LETTER.

Paris, 11th April.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

Parliament has once more gone mad over the Dreyfus case, thanks to deputy Jaurès making a violent socialist speech in which he attacked the headquarters staff, and accusing the latter of perverting sensational forgeries at the time of the Dreyfus scandal. Colonel Henry's confession placed the staff in a very awkward position, so much so that it had either to admit Dreyfus's innocence or add to the forgeries, to conceal their original crimes. The attack on the Government was unexpected, and was very ill-received, creating an awful panic in the Chamber of Deputies, and causing the most excited to come to blows—a very disgraceful scene, thought of as unusual one of late. Public opinion is very much annoyed at deputy Jaurès's speech, and blames him severely for opening up so painful and delicate a subject, which every one, save himself, felt glad to forget. General André, the Minister of War, awaited the end of the socialist member's attack, and then opened fire on him in a manner which he did not altogether expect. Since the case had been re-opened, the Government, he declared, was every bit as anxious now as formerly, to get at the bottom of the matter, and further, thorough and fresh inquiries would be made; the judicial authorities had been communicated with, and the matter would receive best attention. An indescribable scene occurred when the Minister informed the House that he had brought with him the original letter of resignation written by General de Pellieux, which had been concealed for so long by M. Cavaignac. Other violent outbursts were indulged in on General André. The incessant ringing of the President's bell failed to restore order, and pandemonium reigned supreme until the proposal was made to vote upon the election of the National leader, M. Syveton, out of which the whole debate had arisen. It will be remembered that General de Pellieux was the officer who ordered Col. Henry to search Col. Picquart's rooms in his absence in November, 1897; he gave evidence of the forged Henry document at the first Zola trial which purported to have been intercepted between the German and Italian Military Attachés in Paris. This document mainly influenced the jury to convict the late novelist. The recent revival scene in the Chamber a few days ago was the decisive blow dealt at M. Cavaignac by M. Brisson and M. Jaurès. In any case, the socialist deputy brought tonight nothing which was not already known. It was bad policy to re-open a case which has already proved so disastrous to France; though proverbial duels (harmless cases as usual) may ensue from the violent debate, the public manifests no inclination to indulge in any further Dreyfus demonstrations—and is about right.

BUDGET DEBATS.

The feverish anxiety to get the Budget passed through Parliament, so as to regularise the financial operations for this month and avoid another vote of credit, isouly natural. Wrangling generally takes place over the Budget, and all night sittings both in the Senate and the Chamber on the present occasion cannot be surprising. To expect the Senate to agree to everything the Chamber does or wishes is quite out of the question; faults are generally found and this year both Houses differed widely. The Senate for instance caused a great deal of displeasure by suppressing certain grants, including some referring to the Army Estimates, on which the Chamber insisted. Unable to come to an agreement, the Senate held a special sitting at 9 p.m. which lasted until nearly 4 a.m., when the sitting was suspended for an hour, the Budget having been adopted with certain modifications by that time. The committee appointed by the Chamber did not think it was right, much less dutiful, to accept reductions which would prevent the effective working of the services. The consequences were that the greater part of the grants suppressed by the Senate, including the Army Estimates, were formally re-inserted. On receipt of this, the Senate once more sent it back, and again the Chamber returned it to the Senate, with fresh modifications. This child's play will soon have to end, as the country is anxiously waiting for the result, and does not intend to be made a fool of any longer.

THE FORTIFICATIONS OF PARIS.

The knocking down of the Paris fortifications, so long spoken about, will take place in another week. They have been doomed for two years, but no further notice taken. The fortifications are of no earthly use from a military point of view, and afford no protection whatever to Parisians. Even in 1870-71, they failed to stop German shells from dropping in the streets of Paris, and the Prussians had no intention to come up to the fortifications, which were then filled with water, so long as they could shell Parisians four and five miles away. The news of their demolition is gratifying to all; apart from being an eye-sore, they harbour all sorts of murderers and thieves. That part of the wall situated between La Porte Dauphine and the Mairie will be the first to be picked. The value of land is increasing more and more round that neighbourhood, as much as 300 francs being asked for a square metre (one metre is one-tenth more than a yard). The city gate too will soon disappear, other means of securing takes from outsiders having been devised.

KING EDWARD'S VISIT.

Parisians are really in rapture at the approaching visit of King Edward, and extraordinary preparations are taking place to accord a most enthusiastic welcome to His Majesty. French friendship towards England is very sincere just now; let us hope it will last until President Loubet has returned from seeing the King in London in the autumn. The Russians are not so loved as formerly; the French have seen their folly, the fools they made of themselves—all for

nothing. Britain wants nothing from France, save the maintenance of good relations between both countries, and that request is less expensive than Russian loans. There is no doubt that King Edward's visit to Paris will have much political significance, so will the return visit of President Loubet to London, later on. These visits have indeed raised great hopes among influential politicians here, and those who desire the establishment of better relations between England and France have every cause to feel happy. Since Russia deceived France in so cruel a manner, the movement towards closer friendship between Britishers and French has steadily grown in importance both among the commercial and working classes. The recent Venezuelan fiasco, in which Germany played so conspicuous a part, at the expense of England, temporarily injured the friendly relations between France and England. The idea no longer prevails that the French are disliked by the English in favour of the Germans. When it is stated that thirty-five Chambers of Commerce, including many of the most important in France, have passed resolutions assenting to a permanent treaty of conciliation and modified arbitration between the two great nations taking place, and that a great many municipalities, peace societies and public men are at the back of the movement, a much better idea will be formed of the present state of things.

THE HAM FAIR.

This year's *Foire aux Jambons*, or Ham Fair, which opened last Sunday has had to suffer from the bad weather. Though greater *clat* is given on the present occasion, the next-to-incessant shower, cold, and windy weather, keeps visitors away, and stall-keepers have not yet had a good day, the takings being almost nil. The fair in question is very historical as well as ancient. It precedes the noted Gingerbread Fair, which never fails to attract young people. The old fair takes place at the same time as the *foire aux jambons*, and may be said to be a continuation of same. The proportions assumed by this modest yet very important old iron fair, become greater every year. All sorts of curious scraps of iron are exhibited; where half of them come from, no one knows, but they are most interesting to contemplate, consisting of historical handkerchiefs, door-knockers, guns, swords, &c., &c.; purchasers are many, and collectors of curiosities seem to make a rendezvous of the original fair. There are three thousand *forains* or showmen and women this year; this includes the "population" of both the ham and iron fairs.

THE SALONS.

The art world is very busy just now, preparing for the different *Salons* early next month. The finishing touches are being applied to canvases great and small, in expectation of being accepted by the merciless hanging committee. Forty large rooms will again be crowded with pictures at the Grand Palais this year. Another *Salon*, that of the Avenue d'Antin where some 1,250 *tableaux* will be on view in the eighteen *salles*, promises well, though a new *Salon*. As a general rule-half the number of pictures sent in are accepted; the jury is every bit as severe in its selection of water-colours, engravings, and sculpture.

A YOUTHFUL MURDERER.

The execution of Leclerc, the boy murderer has just taken place at St. Michel, a small town in the department of the Meuse. Reprieve was out of the question; though only out of his teens, the young shepherd had committed no fewer than five atrocious murders. Up to the last, Leclerc believed his sentence would be commuted, and was greatly surprised when Deibler, the executioner, made his appearance in his cell, and bade him prepare for the guillotine. He soon however collected himself together, merely remarking "Oh, I see what you want," and dressed himself in the presence of Deibler and his assistants. He refused a glass of rum offered him by one of the warders. "No thanks," he replied, "I don't want to go to my death drunk. Only give me a cigarette," which was done. He displayed wonderful coolness while he was being punished, enjoying his cigarette, his "last consolation," and walked up to the scaffold in a fearless manner. No sooner had he shouted "An revoir!" than the awful heavy glittering knife fell, and his head rolled into the basket.

THE CHURCH TROUBLES.

The English monks of the Hoche Church in Paris, and belonging to the order of the Passionist Fathers, have first been ordered to leave, their petition for authorization to remain having been rejected by the Chamber. The parting address of the principal monk to his congregation was very touching, and affected many present. Though heartily sorry at having to leave after forty years, the generous support extended to the Fathers during the whole of that time would ever be a pleasure to recall. Henceforth, the services will be conducted by English secular chaplains appointed by the English Ambassador, and the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris.

GOOD FRIDAY.

Good Friday was very fine, and the churches were crowded, as much by the pious as lovers of sacred music. Easter Sunday is likely to be also bright and warm, and country places will be crowded; never have English and American visitors been so numerous.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory issued yesterday the following report:—The barometer has fallen considerably over the E. coast of China, Japan and the Loochow, owing to the depression which passed out to sea to the South of Shanghai during the night and is now moving towards the S.W. coast of Japan. S.W. winds changing to N.E. and freshening in the Formosa Channel. Moderate S.W. winds over the N. part of the China Sea. Forecast—S.W. to N.W. winds; moderate or fresh; equally, thunderstorms.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

NEWS VIA RANGOON.

ALGERIA.

London, 22nd April.

A telegram published at Madrid from Sidi-bel-Abbas says that the tribes in the Sahara have proclaimed a holy war and that the French troops now assembled at Kreider are under orders for the Sahara.

THE BALKAN STATES.

London, 22nd April.

A desperate attack has been made by an Albanian in the streets of Scutari (Albania) on two Judges who had lately been appointed under the new reform scheme. The murderer after firing on his victims made his escape. One of the Judges was shot dead and the other wounded.

ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

London, 22nd April.

A Royal Commission is being appointed in connection with the representation of Great Britain at the St. Louis Exhibition and it is understood the Prince of Wales will be the President, at the King's special request, to demonstrate His Majesty's personal interest in the Exhibition and the cordiality between Great Britain and the United States.

LABOUR FOR THE RAND.

London, 23rd April.

A few capitalists in London have subscribed to the one hundred and fifty pounds sterling required for the purpose of recruiting one hundred thousand natives from the interior for the Rand mines.

THE ITALIAN NAVY.

London, 23rd April.

Admiral Bontolo, the Commandant of the Naval Academy, has been appointed Minister of Marine in place of Admiral Morin.

CITY AND SUBURBS.

London, 22nd April.

The City and Suburban resulted as follows: Bramhill first, Valenza second, and Over Norton third.

THE BAGDAD RAILWAY.

London, 24th April.

Mr. Balfour in the discussion on the Bagdad Railway question said the Government had never been asked to consider the scheme based on the Turkish concession which was published by the Times, but an alternative arrangement, providing equality of international control, nevertheless the Government considered that the security given to England was insufficient. The German promoters of the Bagdad Railway fear that the whole plan has been wrecked.

THE LEINSTER AFFAIR.

London, 24th April.

Four of the Leinsterers who were condemned to death at Pretoria have been reprieved; the fifth will be executed.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

London, 23rd April.

The telegraphic summary of Mr. Ritchie's Budget speech given in the Indian papers is as follows:—

The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his Budget in the House of Commons to-night. The expenditure is estimated at £143,954,000, and the revenue at £154,770,000.

The Income-tax is reduced by 4d. in the pound, involving £8,500,000; and the corn duty is remitted, involving two millions. Sugar, coal, and tea are not touched; leaving a working surplus of £27,000,000.

The total cost of the wars in South Africa and in China is put down at 217 millions. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that he hoped to recover 34 millions in South Africa and six millions in China on account of war expenses.

The annual charge for the National Debt is fixed at 27 millions, compared with the present 23 millions, of which £6,340,000 is devoted to the Sinking Fund—rapidly increasing in the next five years to nine millions by payments from the Transvaal—compared with the present 51 millions. If these payments are maintained the debt will be wiped off in fifty years.

As regards Military and Naval expenditure he hoped to considerably reduce the Military expenditure in the next year or two; but a strong navy was a matter of life and death, and he would grudge nothing for it. In this connection Mr. Ritchie referred, incidentally, to the improved relation with France, which were now of the most cordial nature.

Consols have risen three-quarters on the Budget announcement.

London, 24th April.

Mr. Ritchie's Budget is generally well received, although the Opposition style it an electioneering or dissolution Budget. The election of the corn tax is regarded as a final blow to protectionism. In the debate in the House of Commons on the Budget, Mr. Ritchie proposed a House of Commons Committee to enquire into the incidence of the income tax.

Sir W. Vernon Harcourt described the proposal to give eight millions to the wealthy and only two millions to the poorer classes as scandalously unjust. He appealed for retrenchment and reform in order to restore the dilapidated finances.

Messrs. Haldane and Gibson Bowles, who took part in the debate, thought that the Budget indicated a dissolution.

Mr. Chaplin condemned the removal of the corn duty.

Mr. Ritchie in reply said it was impossible to say that the corn duty had not increased the price of bread, and that in regard to relief of direct and indirect taxation he followed the precedent of the Crimean War.

An amendment that was introduced to reduce the duty on tea by twopenny was rejected and a tea resolution was passed.

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BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The official correspondence respecting the ratification of the Sugar Convention, signed at Brussels on March 5, 1902, contains a letter from the Foreign Secretary to various British Ambassadors abroad, in which Lord Lansdowne deals with the position of British Colonies. He desires the Ambassadors to convey to the contracting Powers the view held by the British Government on the subject, which is expressed as follows:—

"The attitude of His Majesty's Government in regard to the matter has never varied. They have declined altogether to agree that Great Britain should be under any obligation to treat the British Colonies as foreign countries. The British delegates at the Brussels Conference repeatedly and formally declared that the fiscal relations between Great Britain and the British Colonies and possessions must remain outside the Convention, and that in no circumstances would a penal clause be applied in the United Kingdom to British colonial sugar."

"It is very improbable that any appreciable amount of sugar will be imported into this country from the self-governing Colonies during the period for which the Convention is to remain in force. But His Majesty's Government attach the utmost importance to the principle of retaining, subject to the special and exceptional concessions mentioned in the Final Protocol, perfect freedom of fiscal relations within the Empire, and in view of the doubts expressed in some quarters as to the proper interpretation of the Convention and the declarations made in the Final Protocol, they consider it necessary to place on record that they will not consent under any circumstances to be bound to penalise bounty-fed sugar imported into the United Kingdom from any of the self-governing British Colonies; and that they are not prepared to accept any reference of this question to the Permanent Commission to be established under Article VII."

The rest of the correspondence is concerned with the ratification of the Convention by the various Governments concerned.



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HONGKONG, 14th April, 1903. [1170]

ABRAM LA RUE—APRIL 27th.ALL CLAIMS against his Estate are
requested to be presented to AMER-
ICAN CONSULATE-GENERAL for authen-
tication.

HONGKONG, 29th April, 1903. [1309]

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as well as Officers of Coast Steamers**80 CARTRIDGES IN STOCK.****UTGENS, EINSTMANN & CO.**

14, DES VOUX ROAD. [2742]

**SEQUEL TO THE SPANISH-
AMERICAN WAR.**

ACTION BY A MANILA VIEW.

An action of considerable interest was begun
in the Supreme Court at Singapore on the 6th
inst. It is a claim brought by a Mr. Lichauco,
a Manila merchant, against Messrs. Riley
Hargreaves and Co., to recover damages which
he alleges he has suffered through the failure
of the defendants to fulfil a contract for the
supply of certain marine engines—the said
contract being entered into in December, 1897.
The total amount of the claim reaches approxi-
mately \$150,000.Mr. Delany, plaintiff's counsel, in opening the
case, said that Mr. Lichauco ordered from the
defendants in December, 1897, three sets of
engines for launches, to be delivered at
Manila in four months. The engines were due
on March 1st, and Mr. Lichauco was anxious
for their arrival because the hulls of the new
launches were ready to receive them and he had
already entered into a contract with a man who
had agreed to charter two of the launches as
from April 21st, 1898, at the net price of \$50
and \$40 per day respectively. The date for the
expiry of the contract arrived and no
engines came. The moment they became
available, Mr. Lichauco complained of the non-
delivery, and wrote a letter, giving defendants
notice at the earliest possible moment of
the damage he was suffering and demand-
ing immediate delivery of the engines. He was
told the engines were coming. On March 17th
he made up his mind to communicate direct with
Riley Hargreaves & Co. in Singapore and he
wrote a letter to them in Spanish. He said
that the launches were nearly finished and that
the delay in delivery of the engines was causing
him damage. Later on he begged the firm to
push on with the work, and to send him
certain parts of the engines which he might
certain parts of the engines which he might
be putting into the hulls. At this time
the war between Spain and America broke out
in the Philippines. A letter was again written
stating that trouble would ensue over the non-
delivery of the machinery, as the hulls of the
launches were lying at Manila, and if the
engines had been delivered to time the launches
might have escaped up the River Pasig. The
American fleet had left Hongkong, and Manila
was expecting a bombardment. On May 1st
occurred the battle of Manila Bay, and the
Spanish fleet was destroyed; but the Spaniards
remained in possession of the town till August
13th following. Between these two dates
Manila was blockaded by the American fleet.
The earnings of launches at Manila about that
time were enormously enhanced, because when
the people were expecting a bombardment they
were willing to pay almost anything to get away
before the American ships arrived. However
plaintiff did not ask for damages on that basis.
During the blockade, plaintiff again wrote on
the matter. The blockade was raised on August
13th, when Manila capitulated to the Americans.
The plaintiff immediately went to Hongkong,
where he ordered some engines from the Wham-
poon Dock Co., leaving behind him his brother,
who had full instructions to take over the engines
due from Singapore. When he was in Hong-
kong, plaintiff again wrote to Singapore.
Letters were continually being sent, and the only
reply given was that the engines were coming.
In a letter dated Jan. 5th, 1899, defendants
stated that the engines ordered had been sold
at the time of the rebellion as they (defendants)
saw no hope of the plaintiff being able to take
them off their hands. But, the defendants
added, they were now pushing on with other
engines for early delivery to plaintiff. This
letter showed that Riley Hargreaves and Co.
recognised the contract. On January 1st
of 1899 the business of Riley Hargreaves
and Co. and all its current contracts was
acquired by Riley Hargreaves and Co., Ltd.
In February plaintiff returned to Manila, and
being extremely distressed took the advice of
Mr. Lovering, an American lawyer, who there-
upon wrote stating that he was instructed to
"commence legal proceedings, but that his client
hoped it would be possible to come to an
amicable settlement. Riley Hargreaves replied
that they thought they were justified in selling
the engines to avoid having them thrown on
their hands; and it seemed that Riley Har-
greaves & Co. were of opinion that they were
able to repudiate their contract at any time.
But they added that they were still pushing on
with the other engines. In August of the same
year, Mr. Lichauco was suspected of having
leanings towards the insurgents and was
arrested by General Otis and thrown into prison.
He was in Manila gaol from August 14th to
Dec. 8th, 1899, as a political prisoner.
Prisoner wrote another letter to Riley Har-
greaves & Co. and afterwards had an interview
in the prison with Mr. W. M. Robertson,
defendants' manager, who subsequently wrote
a letter agreeing to deliver the engines within
three months from October 1899. Mr. Lichauco
was released in December, and still the engines
did not arrive. In 1900 the plaintiff came to
Singapore and instituted legal proceedings.
After the writ was issued, the \$5,000 deposit
which had been made was paid into Court by
the defendants, and that was the first
opportunity the plaintiff had of getting his
money back. The case is proceeding.**LAW IN NOAH'S TIME.**A remarkable code of laws, which existed soon
after the period when Noah left the Ark, and
which would have done credit to the twentieth
century, has been translated by Mr. C. H. W.
Jones, lecturer in Assyriology at Queen's
College, Cambridge, and published in Edin-
burgh. These laws, which were enacted by
Hammurabi, King of Babylon, whose rule
extended from the mouths of the Tigris and
Euphrates to the Mediterranean coast, were
discovered by a French expedition in January
of last year on a monument at Susa (the
Shasian of the Old Testament), one of the
capitals of ancient Persia. The monument
itself consisted of a block of black diorite, or
greenstone, nearly eight feet high.The first of the laws deals with witchcraft,
and declares that if a man "waves a spell or
put a ban upon a man" he shall be put to death.
There also seems to have been some trouble
with burglars, for Law 21 states: "If a man
has broken into a house, one shall kill him
before the breach, and bury him in it."Divorce was an easy matter for a woman.
She had only to "hate her husband" and be
without vice, and then she could "take her
marriage portion and go off to her father's
house." But, on the other hand, she was "a
geer-about," had "wasted her house," or
"battered her husband," she was to be "thrown
into the waters."The law of assault was on the principle of
"an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." If
a man "shattered a gentleman's limb," one of
his limbs was also to be shattered. If he caused
a tooth "to fall out," one of his teeth was to be
made to fall out.There were drastic remedies against inefficient
doctors and jury-builers. "If the doctor,"
runs the 218th law, "has treated a gentleman
for a severe wound with a lancet and has caused
the gentleman to die, one shall cut off
his hands." The jury-builder who built a house
which fell on its owner was put to death.**THE FINEST FABRIC**made by human skill is coarse compared with
the lining of the bowels. When this tender
membrane is irritated we have griping pains,
diarrhoea and cholera morbus. Whatever be
the cause of the trouble, take Perry
Davis' Painkiller according to the directions
with each bottle. Travelers in all climates
carry Painkiller in their gripesacks. 288-11**PUBLIC COMPANY**THE "STAR" FERRY COMPANY,
LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FIFTH ORDINARY ANNUAL
MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
in the above Company will be held at the
COMPANY'S OFFICE, No. 2, Cannan
Road, at a Noon, on WEDNESDAY, the 20th
MAY, for the purpose of receiving the Report
of the Directors, with a Statement of Accounts
to 31st April, 1903.THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 15th to the 20th
MAY, both days inclusive.R. J. MAGGOWAN,
Acting Secretary. [1385]

HONGKONG, 9th May, 1903.

NOTICES OF FIRMS

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[Hongkong, 21st March, 1903.] 924

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Nos. 24 and 25, CONNAUGHT ROAD,
opposite Douglas Hotel.

[Hongkong, 1st May, 1903.] [1321]

NOTICE.

THE Business of Share and General Brokers
Litherto carried on by GUBBAY &
MICHAELE has this day been Dissolved by
Mutual Consent. All Outstanding Contracts
and Accounts will be attended to by Mr. R. A.
GUBBAY who will continue to carry on the
business in his own name.

R. A. GUBBAY.

M. H. MICHAEL.

[Hongkong, 13th May, 1903.] [1410]

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[Hongkong, 1st July, 1902]

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[Hongkong, 21st March, 1903.]

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[Hongkong, 14th March, 1903.] [369]

**A FEW OF THE 2,000 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE
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it is interesting to note that while the list of contributors to the present edition includes a host
of names in every sphere of contemporary life, an equally distinguished company of
literary men assisted in the work of preparing the earlier editions. Among these we find the
supplement to the fifth edition, Sir Walter Scott, Macaulay, Arago, Malthe, Ricardo, James
Mill, Hazlitt, De Quincey, Sir David Brewster, Kingsley and Professor Owen. The Tenth
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